

Nourishment for the Neshama

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Sunday, April 27, 2014

Hod Shebe Gevurah - A Great Day to Make a Kiddush Hashem!

Hod shebe gevurah is a day to go out of our way to make a kiddush Hashem. With gevurah, discipline, we stimulate in our hearts awe of Hashem and how He has made the world with our very lives as the vehicle for His Glory to be visible in this world.

In the time of the omer that we are in, we work to develop the inclination that was taken out of the imprisonment in Ra over Passover and retrain that inclination to add to the visibility of tzelem elokim, thereby increasing in frequency and intensity the ability we have to reveal Hashem's Glory in time and space as we head toward Har Sinai. Hashem's incredible middos of rachamim that He generously folds a likeness of into our tzelem elokim is the compassion that forms our wisdom – our knowing that Hashem is rachamim is the basis of Torah, the absolute truth, which we then cling to and build upon in order to form our intellectual understanding that Hashem, Torah and Nishmas Am Yisrael are One. Our intellectual understanding becomes clarity that Ein Od Milvado, everything is Hashem, He creates all circumstances and forms every atom and is in total control EXCEPT He gives us free will regarding our belief in this or not. He does not interfere with our free willed choices, sustaining the negativity that we choose until we do teshuva. And He patiently allows Himself to be in galus with our bad choices. Nevertheless, He does much to get our attention. Ultimately the crucial shift He desires is for us to identify esteem with our effort to reveal Torah and tzelem elokim in every moment. What is required is a sacrifice of self-interest. Self-interest is NOT a sacrifice of the true self though. Self-interest is the oil on the altar we sacrifice to create light, warmth and blessings with our free willed choices to reveal tzelem elokim and birth our real two world identity.

When there is a well, the bucket goes up and down to draw the water. If the bucket breaks, a new bucket is attached, but the well is the well. This is a way of looking at our lives. We are the bucket drawing water from the well of Torah to bring to the world in this generation. The well however has not changed.

We are at bat! We approach the plate and a hardball life circumstance comes our way. Which bat do we want to select – the herringboned whiffle bat or the solid wood bat?

Today's hardballs require us to use all of Torah, the solid wood bat. We need the inner penitence of Torah to give birth to our eternal selves at bat in the times just preceding the coming of Moshaich, the times where value based on anything OTHER than effort to reveal Hashem's glory in this world simply adds strength to the kelipas and more darkness and self-interest.

Doing battle with the overwhelming solutions that value based on ego-successes tempt us with means activating a far greater pleasure and solution – connection to Hashem by emulating tzelem elokim. Hashem is in charge of all circumstances and with emunah, when we identify with effort to reveal His Glory, we create a light due to the added tremendous self-interest-oriented sacrifice involved. This humbling, based on emunah and understanding of the inner penitence of Torah that tells us we are here expressly to reveal His Glory, takes a great deal of gevurah. Today is a great day to make a kiddush Hashem. And may doing so bring insight and relief into our lives to stimulate more revealing of Hashem's Glory in this world until we merit that Hashem redeem us.